BROAD TOPIC: SOUTH ASIAN LITERATURE

TITLE OF THE TOPIC: SOCIO-CULTURAL ASPECTS IN THE SELECTED PARTITION NOVELS

INTRODUCTION:

Partition of Indian subcontinent was the most dangerous, hilarious political moment of history. The people of different background, caste, creed, nationality had faced its impact. It was followed by two independent dominions India and Pakistan. Pakistan was further divided into East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan (Now Pakistan). Modern Bangladesh emerged as an independent nation from Pakistan in 1971. Partition of India was the biggest Politico-historical moment. Liberation of Bangladesh was also a revolution and armed conflict sparked by the rise of the Bengali Nationalist and self Determination Movement. It resulted in the Independence of the peoples of Republic of Bangladesh. So Bangladesh suffered a twice fold impact of partition and liberation. The partition of India and Pakistan had shackled the Indian subcontinent. Millions of people from the victim countries had suffered immensely. The newly formed governments were unable to deal with post partition problems such as: communal riots, religious unrest, slaughter, problems of refugees, etc. Such problems were faced by the both sides of the borders.

Partition is epoch-defining event like French Revolution and American Civil war. Both incidents have always inspired literature as 'Literature is the mirror to society". Incidents happened in society, both healthy and unhealthy, have better reflection in the literature of the society. So historiographically speaking, literature plays a vital role for the understanding of such incidents. Hence, the impact of partition could be noticed in various genre of literature like: non-fictional prose, poems, drama and fiction. Of all, the genre of fiction is the best source for the

historiographic representation of these societal events because of the flexibility of characters, plot construction and thematic elasticity to show this impact of partition on human psyche. Writers like Attia Hussein, Manohar Malegaonkar, Raj Gill, Chaman Nahal, Bhisham Sahani, Bapsi Sidhwa, Khushwant Singh, Amitav Ghosh express the agony and pain of people on both sides of the border with experienced precision in their fiction. The writers like Bhisham Sahani, Bapsi Sidhwa, Khushwant Singh have been direct victims of partition. Their fiction and its study are the best sources for the representation of the partition.

The present doctoral Study would uses fiction related to partition such as Khushwant Sing's *Train to Pakistan*, (1965) Amitav Ghosh's *Shadow Lines* (1988), Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice –Candy Man (1988)* and Tehmima Aman's *A Golden Age(2007)*. The major guideline for this study will be *Open Secrets* by ((2005) Maloy Krishna Dhar and *Jinnah India, Partition, Independence (2009)* by Jaswant Singh. The present study will discuss the Socio- Cultural Aspects reflected in the above selected South Asian partition novels.

Hypothesis:

The researcher assumes that South Asian Partition Fiction portrays the Socio-Cultural Aspects with special reference of India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

1. The proposed research would represent the Socio- Cultural aspects in the fiction of Amitav Ghosh's *Shadow Lines* from the Indian perspective of the India-Bangladesh partition.
2. The proposed research would represent the Socio- Cultural aspects in the fiction of Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan* from the Indian perception of the India-Pakistan partition.

3. The proposed research would represent the Socio- Cultural aspects in the fiction of Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man* from the viewpoint of Pakistan regarding the India-Pakistan partition.
4. The proposed research would represent the Socio- Cultural aspects in the fiction of Tehmima Aman's *A Golden Age* from the point of view of Bangladesh regarding the India-Bangladesh partition.
5. The research thereby would be an ideal historiographic representation of the partition theme in the select South Asian partition fiction.

Aims and Objectives:

The proposed research aims to study the partition fiction of Indian subcontinent: India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The study tries to underneath the post-partition trauma, its root causes and consequences along with the national and international policies behind it. This doctoral research tries to understand the darker truth of history with special focus on Socio–Cultural aspects in the South Asian Partition fiction.

1. The proposed research aims at studying Socio-Cultural aspects in the partition fiction of Amitav Ghosh's *Shadow Lines*.
2. This doctoral study aims at studying Socio-Cultural aspects in the partition fiction of Khushwant Sing's *Train to Pakistan.*
3. This research would try to uncover the Socio-Cultural aspects in the partition fiction of Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man.*
4. The present study aims at studying a Socio-Cultural aspect in the partition fiction of Tehmima Aman's *A Golden Age.*

Data, Scope and Limitations:

The present study will be limited to the selected works of Amitav Ghosh, Tehmima Aman, Bapsi Sidhwa and Khushwant Singh. All available printed material and electronic material will be selected for the study. The scope of this research is that it covers various Socio-Cultural aspects reflected in contemporary South- Asian partition literature.

Research Methodology:

The methodology to be adopted for the research is Historical, Analytical, and Critical with the help of various print and electronic, primary and secondary sources of selected novelists. Critical theories like New- Historicism, Cultural Materialism, Marxist and Social theories would be applied to the texts for the analysis.

Justification of this Research:

The episode of partition is the most terrible tragedy in the world history; and history alone is not sufficient for the understanding of such incidents. The present doctoral study has selected some writers from the victim countries who represented the holocaust of partition and responded their emotional experiences through literature. The real sorrow of partition was that it brought to an end a long history of communal co-existence. It had dismantled the strong social bonding of different cultures, and promoted to cross-cultural crisis. Still today such memory of socio-cultural hatred haunts the society badly. Hence, the present research will stand for the Socio-Cultural aspects with special reference to partition fiction and passes the message to the entire human race to avoid the repetition of such incidents in the future.

Pedagogical Implications:

The present study of selected contemporary South Asian partition fiction analyses the multiple perspectives of partition and thereby it can give the overall survey of partition. The proposed research could satisfy the questions raised into the classroom discussion regarding the partition issues for teachers and students. Especially, this study will focus on Socio-Cultural aspects in the selected partition novels by highlighting the national, international policies behind it, the root causes and consequences of such incidents on a common man and society. Thus, the study will give the entire scenario of partition and its distress from the point of view of all affected countries. There by it could be a secondary source for other research scholars working in the same discipline.

Tentative Chapter Scheme:

Chapter One: Introduction:

This chapter tries to focus on the reflection of Socio-Cultural aspects in the fiction of Indian sub-continental countries: India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The introductory chapter will talk about the hypothesis, methodology, plan and the review of the related research of South-Asian Partition fiction.

Chapter Two: Socio-Cultural Aspects in Amitav Ghosh's *Shadow Line*.

This Chapter will begin with the biographical sketch of the author and will explore the Socio-Cultural aspectsas reflected in the Ghosh's *Shadow Lines*.

Chapter three: Socio-cultural Aspects in Khushwant Singh's *Train to Pakistan.*

This Chapter will explore Socio-Cultural aspects of partition as seen in the *Train to Pakistan* along with biographical sketch of its author, Khushwant Singh.

Chapter Four: Socio-Cultural Aspects in Bapsi Sidhwa's *Ice Candy Man*.

This Chapter will explore Socio-Cultural aspects of partition in *The Ice Candy Man* along with biographical sketch of the author.

Chapter Five: Socio-Cultural Aspects in Tehmima Aman's *A Golden Age*.

This chapter will explore Socio-Cultural aspects of partition in Tehmima Aman's *A Golden Age along* with biographical sketch of the author.

Chapter six: Conclusion

This chapter would summarize the arguments of the earlier chapters and would comprise of conclusions, suggestions and recommendations for future study.

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